



Dear Brothers & Sisters

From the Minister

Greetings my Brothers and Sisters, as we pray for our Pope Francis and his improved health...we remember that he has made this year The Jubilee Year of Hope...and WE are the pilgrims of HOPE. Are you passionate about your Franciscan vocation? Do you remember how you first heard about the Franciscans and how you felt while going through formation? Last Tuesday, February 18th, 10 members of our fraternity made a Franciscan presence at Holy Family, sitting together, up front in support of Fr. Johnpaul in his evening presentation regarding our Franciscan flavor on Creation, the Crib and the Cross. We sat together, listened, sang, prayed and helped plant a tree. Fr. Johnpaul acknowledged us. A friend came up afterwards and asked all kinds of questions about US...she is hoping to attend our next gathering. It is in the “doing together” in fraternity that we will attract others and grow our fraternity.

“Hope built on faith results in an increase of vocations”...this is a quote from Anne Mulguez, OFS, National Formation Commission. Hope is the assurance of things not seen (Hebrews 11:2). In the words of Pope Francis, “Hope is not a passive virtue that merely waits for things to happen.” And as Anne Mulguez continues, “we must step out in faith and be that gospel salt, leaven and light illuminating the path for those God has called to be one with us.”

For those who missed Fr. Johnpaul Cafiero’s presentation on the 18th, it was livestreamed and is available on the Holy Family Parish website. I highly recommend that you see it.

I would like to remind you that we will be participating at FMSC on Wednesday, March 26th from 2:30 – 4:00 p.m. and will have a sign up at the March meeting.

We will have our Bellarmine Retreat on Monday, March 24th from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. The fee is \$75. There was still room the last time I looked. Everyone was responsible to sign up and pay independently.

At our February council meeting, we voted to make a fraternity donation of \$500 to Franciscan Outreach in Chicago. They are struggling to assist the homeless since the White House instructed all federal agencies to temporarily suspend activities related to the obligation and disbursement of grants, loans and other forms of financial assistance. Franciscan Outreach is our own, right here in Chicago, helping our own homeless.

We will have guests from Welcome the Stranger (Neighbor) at our next gathering to help us have a better understanding of this new outreach for us.

Lastly, we have a regional event on Saturday, March 29th...Spring Formation Day, from 9:00 a.m.- 3:30 p.m. in Mayslake. RSVPs need to be in by March 21st. I need to know who would like to go and if you want to bring your own lunch or order lunch? I will have flyers at our March 10th meeting

And so, I end with a quote from our own Fr. Johnpaul Cafiero, OFM, “Cultivate Franciscan hearts to be in relationship with ALL of creation.”

Peace, Sue OFS

Our Monthly Gathering

We will gather on **Monday, March 10, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. in the CHURCH at Holy Family Parish in Inverness for Stations of the Cross** and for the presentation of our monthly Saint's Biography. Afterward, we will proceed to the lower level for a presentation by Larry and Myra Buettner who will visit and describe their amazing work with the Welcome the Stranger ministry.

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.

Each month we will begin our gathering in the **Chapel** for the selected Liturgy that month. Our formation, business meeting and social time will be held in Room 083 on the lower level after our Liturgy.

One Day a Year

2 hours x 12 months = 24 hours/one day

Fraternity – a group of people sharing a common interest or purpose. Our fraternity gathers once each month for approximately two hours for Liturgy, formation and socialization.

Surely, each of us can devote one day per year to our Brothers and Sisters when we have 364 other days in which to attend to all of life's other blessings, needs and desires.

We Pray ...

PAPAL INTENTIONS FOR MARCH

For families in crisis

Let us pray that broken families might discover a cure for their wounds through forgiveness, discovering each other's gifts, even in their differences.

Lord, hear our prayer, as we pray for your servant, Pope Francis, who has been a beacon of hope in a troubled world as a staunch advocate for those thought of as the least of the brethren. He has truly been "Il Papa", our Father, guiding us to follow Your example of love for everyone, not just for those who love us back. Your children need their Papa Francesco to continue to guide them in these tumultuous times.

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 refugee 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	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 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 in neutral colors)
Bath mat – neutral color
Shower curtain with hooks – neutral color
Shower curtain liner (if shower curtain is cloth)
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, 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.
Sunday Apr 27	There will be a collection of items for Welcome the Stranger . 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.
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.

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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. The liturgy will be a Communion Service before our Christmas potluck.
Sunday, Dec. 28	Council meeting, minister's home at 1:30 p.m.

Regional Calendar of Events

Saturday, March 29	Spring Formation Day (Mayslake) (Cluster Three)
Saturday, April 12	REC Meeting (Mayslake)
Saturday, May 10	Chapter of Ministers at Marytown
Saturday, May 17	Headstone clean-up day, OFS section, Queen of Heaven Cemetery Hillside, IL 8:00 – 10:00 a.m.
Saturday, July 12	REC Meeting (Mayslake)
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 (Cluster Two) location TBD

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.
