



## *Dear Brothers & Sisters*

### **From the Minister**

Today, we all saw the funeral of our beloved Pope Francis. From Mary Lou Matheke, at the Archdiocese of Chicago Office of Human Dignity and Solidarity, I share with you a prayer for our brother, Pope Francis:

*Loving God, today, we grieve for our beloved Pope Francis. We know you join us in our grief, that you, too, weep at the death of your dear friend and companion as Jesus did at the tomb of Lazarus.*

*Welcome our beloved Pope Francis into your waiting arms. Envelop him in your eternal love. And comfort us in our mourning as we strive to continue to follow His Gospel example to encounter Christ in all people and in all places.*

*We thank you for the gift of Pope Francis. Through his life and teaching, you showed us how to love and serve one another, how to hear the cries of the poor and the cries of the earth and respond in compassionate love.*

*Pope Francis, pray for us.*

*Mary, Mother of Sorrows, comfort us.*

*Amen.*

(A prayer from the Jesuit Conference of Canada and the United States.)

### **Living the Holy Rule We've Professed:**

**Our Promise:** At each of our Professions, we made a *permanent* commitment before God, our fraternity, and the other members of the People of God that in our secular state, we promise to live all the days of our lives the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ in the Secular Franciscan Order by observing its rule of life.

**The Rule:** Our current rule was approved and confirmed by Pope Paul VI in 1978. It is the fourth expression of the Rule since the first Rule in 1221. After Vatican II in the 1960's, it became obvious that the Rule given by Pope Leo XIII in the 1880's needed to be changed. Thus, we have our current Rule of 1978 (also referred to as the "Pauline" Rule).

**Suggestions:**

1. Read, understand, digest and incarnate the Rule.
2. Realize that living according to our Rule requires a dedicated spirit - it takes effort and requires perseverance.
3. In addition to reviewing one article of our Rule each day, consider reading a corresponding article in our Constitutions. The articles of the Constitutions interpret and explain our Rule in further detail and enable us to live out our gospel lives.

## Minister's Message continued from page 1:

Note: If you need a copy of our Rule and Constitutions, you can download them from our National Fraternity's website: [www.nafra-sfo.org](http://www.nafra-sfo.org) or contact me, Sue Gribbon, OFS.

And, so I close, with HOPE in my mind and Love in my heart, how can we be wrong? Let us remember what it means to be Franciscan. Among Jesus, Saints Francis and Clare and our Pope Francis, they have shown us How. Now it is up to us to just do it...together.

Peace and ALL Good.

Sue, OFS

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## Fraternity Council

Last month, with the decision of the Vice Minister to ask to be lapsed because of personal reasons, a vacancy occurred in the Council. At the April 27<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting, all council members were unanimous in agreement to the following: the remainder of the secretary's term will be completed by Marion Tuttle, OFS, and the remainder of the vice minister's term will be completed by Stephanie Heavey, OFS.

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## Our Monthly Gathering.

We will gather on **Monday, May 12, 2025 at 4:30 p.m. in the Chapel at Holy Family Parish in Inverness for the Crown Rosary** in honor of Our Lady and for our business meeting. Afterward, we will have formation and social times in Room 083 in the lower level.

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## We Pray ...

### PAPAL INTENTIONS FOR MAY

#### For working conditions

Let us pray that through work each person may find fulfillment, families might be sustained in dignity, and that society might be humanized.

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## Profession Anniversaries

May 6, 1984	Lea N.
May 8, 2006	Sue G.
May 13, 2013	Kay C.

May God's abundant blessings be yours as you faithfully live the Gospel life you professed to live on those lovely May days years ago.

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# Franciscan Outreach Schedule for 2025

The schedule for Franciscan Outreach for 2025 is as follows:

January	<b>FMSC</b>	(Feed My Starving Children) – packing bags of grain.
February	<b>Journeys/The Road Home</b>	– collection of food and necessities for the homeless
March	<b>FMSC</b>	March 26, 2025 from 2:30 - 4:00 p.m.
April	<b>Welcome the Stranger</b>	– collection of items needed by a refuge family who are moving into an apartment in their new country
May	<b>FMSC</b>	May 28, 2025 from 2:30 – 4:00 p.m.
June	<b>Blessing Bags</b>	– creation of plastic bags of necessities for the homeless
July	<b>FMSC</b>	July 30, 2025 from 2:30 – 4:00 p.m.
August	<b>Journeys/The Road Home</b>	
September	<b>FMSC</b>	September 24, 2025 from 2:30 – 4:00 p.m.
October	<b>Welcome the Stranger</b>	
November	<b>Thanksgiving food baskets</b>	for the needy
December	<b>FMSC</b>	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. 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 (8 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

feminine protection pads

10 disposable men's razors and shaving cream

8 rolls of toilet paper

2 bottles 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

<b>Monday, May 12</b>	Monthly gathering will be at <b>4:30 p.m.</b> at Holy Family Parish, Inverness. The liturgy will be the Crown Rosary.
<b>Sunday, May 18</b>	Council meeting, minister's home at 1:30 p.m.
<b>Monday, June 9</b>	Monthly gathering will be at <b>4:30 p.m.</b> at Holy Family Parish, Inverness. There will be a Communion Service. <b>Blessing Bags</b> for the homeless will be packed at the gathering.
<b>Sunday, June 22</b>	Council meeting, minister's home at 1:30 p.m.
<b>Monday, July 14</b>	Monthly gathering will be at <b>4:30 p.m.</b> at Holy Family Parish, Inverness. The liturgy will be the Liturgy of the Hours (LOTH).
<b>Sunday, July 20</b>	Council meeting, minister's home at 1:30 p.m.
<b>Monday, Aug. 11</b>	Monthly gathering will be at <b>4:30 p.m.</b> at Holy Family Parish, Inverness. The liturgy will be Lectio Divina. There will be a collection of items for <b>Journeys/The Road Home</b>
<b>Sunday, Aug. 24</b>	Council meeting, minister's home at 1:30 p.m.
<b>Monday, Sept. 8</b>	Monthly gathering will be at <b>4:30 p.m.</b> at Holy Family Parish, Inverness. The liturgy will be Liturgy of the Hours (LOTH).
<b>Sunday, Sept. 28</b>	Council meeting, minister's home at 1:30 p.m.
<b>Monday, Oct. 6</b>	Monthly gathering will be at <b>4:30 p.m.</b> at Holy Family Parish, Inverness. The liturgy will be Transitus of St. Francis. <b>Note: this is the First Monday of the month.</b> There will be a collection of items for <b>Welcome the Stranger.</b>
<b>Sunday, Oct. 26</b>	Council meeting, minister's home at 1:30 p.m.
<b>Monday, Nov. 10</b>	Monthly gathering will be at <b>4:30 p.m.</b> at Holy Family Parish, Inverness. The liturgy will be a Commemoration of the Deceased. We will pack <b>Thanksgiving baskets</b> for the Township.
<b>Sunday, Nov. 23</b>	Council meeting, minister's home at 1:30 p.m.
<b>Monday, Dec. 8</b>	Monthly gathering will be at <b>4:30 p.m.</b> at Holy Family Parish, Inverness. The liturgy will be a Communion Service before our Christmas potluck.
<b>Sunday, Dec. 28</b>	Council meeting, minister's home at 1:30 p.m.

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## Regional Calendar of Events

<b>Saturday, May 10</b>	Chapter of Ministers at Marytown
<b>Saturday, May 17</b>	Headstone clean-up day, OFS section, Queen of Heaven Cemetery Hillside, IL 8:00 – 10:00 a.m.
<b>Saturday, July 12</b>	REC Meeting (Mayslake)
<b>Saturday, August 2</b>	Portiuncula (virtual only)
<b>Saturday, September 6</b>	REC Meeting (Mayslake)
<b>Saturday, September 20</b>	Fall Formation Day (Cluster Four)
<b>Saturday, October 18</b>	All Souls Day Prayer Service, OFS section, Queen of Heaven Cemetery, Hillside, IL 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
<b>Sunday, November 9</b>	Mother Cabrini Celebration (Cluster Two) location TBD

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# Pope Francis – Seek Christ in Abandoned Tabernacles of the Poor, the Lonely

Jesus asks all Christians to prepare a place for him, not in “exclusive, selective places” but rather in uncomfortable places that are “untouched by love, untouched by hope,” Pope Francis said.

“How many persons lack dignified housing or food to eat! All of us know people who are lonely, troubled and in need: they are abandoned tabernacles. We, who receive from Jesus our own room and board, are here to prepare a place and a meal for these, our brothers and sisters in need.”

In a reflection on the Gospel reading in which Jesus instructs his disciples to find a place to celebrate the Passover, the pope said that although the disciples were supposed to prepare a place, they discover a large room that is furnished and ready. “Jesus prepares for us and asks us to be prepared,” the pope said. “What does he prepare for us? A place and a meal. A place much more worthy than the large furnished room of the Gospel. The church, where there is, and must be, room for everyone....The bread of heaven is the only matter on earth that tastes of eternity.”

The Pope said that Christians live “eucharistically” when they give themselves in service to others, imitating Jesus who “became bread broken for our sake.” Christians are called to prepare for Jesus’ coming, “not by keeping our distance but by entering our cities” and tearing down “the walls of indifference and silent collusion.”

“The Eucharist invites us to let ourselves be carried along by the wave of Jesus, to not remain grounded on the beach in the hope that something may come along, but to cast into the deep, free, courageous and united.”

*Homily on Feast of Body and Blood of Christ  
Pope Francis, June 3, 2018*

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## Council Members

<b>Minister</b>	Susan Gribbon, OFS	<i>sgribbon1949@gmail.com</i>
<b>Vice Minister</b>	Stephanie Heavey, OFS	
<b>Formation Director</b>	Kay Crnich, OFS	
<b>Secretary</b>	Marion Tuttle, OFS	
<b>Treasurer</b>	Kathy Fischer, OFS	
<b>Spiritual Assistant</b>	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.*

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## Joy

Joy is the spirit of God in time. It is the only taste of eternity that is freely given...Joy is the energy to carry on through dull days knowing that miracles can happen in the future because we have seen them in the past.

*Sr. Joan D. Chittister*

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