



Dear Brothers & Sisters

From the Minister

Greetings, my Franciscan Brothers and Sisters,

Living in thankfulness for ALL of you and for my life. This past week has been full, stressful, sad, happy and really aware of how God is in control ... not me.

Our house of thirty-eight years went on the market and is under contract. Our 20- and 24-year-old grandsons were in and out this past weekend ... wanting to see us and spend time with us. My last uncle, at age 91, passed away (you all would have loved him). Every emotion and heartstring has been played and felt. And so, I finally sit down to reach out to you for our monthly newsletter.

First, on behalf of our OFS council, I would like to congratulate our Matthew S. who will be professed July 20th, 2026, at Holy Family. His profession will replace our monthly gathering. So, in July, we will NOT meet on the second Monday (July 13th), but will have our monthly gathering and Matthew's profession on Monday, July 20th at 4:30 p.m. Please mark your calendars regarding this event and please be there for our Matthew.

Our Feed My Starving Children event will take place Wednesday, May 27th, from 2:30-4:00 p.m. in Schaumburg. If you are interested in working this event, please let me know so that I can register you. I will be there.

Our next Regional Headstone Clean-Up Day at the OFS section of Queen of Heaven Cemetery, Hillside, Illinois, is scheduled from 9:00-11:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 30, 2026. I will not be able to attend as my oldest grandson will be married that weekend outside of Austin, Texas. BUT, call me if you would like to participate and I will coordinate rides for you. This event is a Corporal Work of Mercy and I always find it a spiritual time working in fellowship with others from our Regional OFS family.

And, so, I end with ... "May the Lord give you peace." The Peace we all seek and need. The Trust that Our God is in control, has a plan and loves us. Believe this. Breathe it. And Know It.

I love you all,

Sue, OFS

Our Monthly Gathering – May 2026

We will gather on **Monday, May 11, 2026, at 4:30 p.m. at Holy Family Parish, Inverness**, for our monthly gathering. We will pray the Crown Rosary; please bring your rosaries. **Mary S.** will give her report on Blessed Angela Salawa. Lou R. and Sue G. are scheduled for hospitality.

We Pray ...

PAPAL INTENTIONS FOR MAY

That everyone might have food.

Let us pray that everyone, from large producers to small consumers, be committed to avoid wasting food, and to assure that everyone has access to quality food.

Profession Anniversaries

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.

Fraternity Survey

At our Fraternity Gathering on May 12, the Professed and Candidates will be given a short one-page survey to complete. This is an important tool for the Council to use in guiding the growth of the fraternity. Below are a few of the questions to consider before attending the gathering:

Do you feel that we as a fraternity are active enough?

Would you be interested in getting together once a month, in *addition* to our gathering? If so, what days would work for you?

What kinds of apostolic and social activities would you like to see in the fraternity?

Calendar of Fraternity Gatherings 2026

Monday, May 11

Monthly gathering will be at **4:30 p.m.** at Holy Family Parish, Inverness. Liturgy will be Crown Rosary. Report by Mary S. on Blessed Angela Salawa. Snacks by Lou R. and Sue. G.

Sunday, May 24

Council meeting, vice 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. **This will be our Triennial Regional Visitation.** We will pray the Liturgy of the Hours. Kay C. will give a report on St. John Bosco. There will be a collection of items for Journeys/The Road Home. Snacks by Tom S. and Jerry S.

Sunday, June 28

Council meeting, vice minister's home at 1:00 p.m.

Monday, July 20

Profession of Matthew S. is scheduled for **4:30 p.m.** in the chapel at Holy Family Parish, Inverness. **Note Date change.**

Sunday, July 19

Council mtg, vice minister's home at 1:00 p.m. **Note Date change.**

Monday, Aug. 10

Monthly gathering will be at **4:30 p.m.** at Holy Family Parish, Inverness. Liturgy of the Hours. Anne F. will speak on Pope St. Pius X. There will be a collection of items for Journeys.

Sunday, Aug. 23

Council meeting, vice minister's home at 1:00 p.m.

Calendar of Fraternity Gatherings continued from page 2

- Monday, Sept. 14** Monthly gathering will be at **4:30 p.m.** at Holy Family Parish, Inverness. Liturgy to be determined.
- 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**. There will be a collection of items for the Household Pack for Welcome the Stranger.
- 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. There will be a collection of the items needed for the Palatine Township Thanksgiving baskets.
- 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. Communion Service. It will be our Christmas celebration.
- Sunday, Dec. 27** Council meeting, minister's home at 1:00 p.m.

Calendar of Regional Gatherings

- Fri. May 8 – Sun. May 10** Regional Visitation from NEC – Shrine of St. Maximilian Kolbe (Marytown)
- Sat. May 9** Chapter of Ministers – Shrine of St. Maximilian Kolbe (Marytown)
- Sat. May 30** Headstone Clean-Up Day, OFS section, Queen of Heaven Cemetery, Hillside, IL 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.
- Sat. Sept. 26** Fall Formation Day (Cluster Two)
- Sat. Oct. 31** All Soul's Day Prayer Service, OFS Section, Queen of Heaven Cemetery, Hillside, IL 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.
- Sun. Nov. 8** Mother Cabrini Celebration (Cluster Three) location TBD

Franciscan Outreach Schedule for 2026

The schedule for Franciscan Outreach for 2026 has been streamlined to make it easier for all fraternity members. In 2026 the fraternity determined that we will concentrate on **THREE** organizations that help those **MOST IN NEED: Feed My Starving Children, Journeys/The Road Home** and **Welcome the Stranger**.

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.

Dates for Feed My Starving Children:

- Wednesday, January 28, 2026
- Wednesday, March 25, 2026
- Wednesday, May 27, 2026
- Wednesday, July 29, 2026
- Wednesday, September 30, 2026
- Wednesday, December 30, 2026

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

This organization serves persons in our community who are homeless, on the verge of losing their home and have other needs that impact the norms of daily living. We collect food and needed items. Fraternity members are needed to help stock the items at Journeys when they are delivered.

Dates for Journeys/The Road Home collections:

- Monday, February 9, 2026
- Monday, June 8, 2026
- Monday, August 10, 2026

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/vegetables*
Rice	Pasta sauce	Canned fruit*
Peanut butter	Cereal - large boxes	Canned beans*
Jelly	Canned stew, fish and chicken*	Canned beans*

WELCOME THE STRANGER

Welcome the Stranger works in tandem with Exodus to support refugee 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**.

Franciscan Outreach Schedule for 2026 continued from page 4

The necessary items are listed below. A sign-up sheet will be available at the February and September gatherings. Items 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

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

CLEANING ITEMS

All purpose cleaner spray (without bleach)
Toilet bowl cleaner
Laundry soap
Roll of quarters (for laundry)
Scouring powder
Floor cleaner

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 Two 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	Jerry Stecker, 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.

Live Simply so That Others Can Simply Live.